Amendments to Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) An intimate blend of staple fibers, comprising: 10 to 75 parts by weight of at least one aramid staple fiber, 15 to 80 parts by weight of at least one flame retardant cellulosic staple fiber, selected from the group consisting of FR rayon, FR acetate, FR triacetate, FR lyocell and fiber which contains silicon dioxide in the form of polysilicic acid in a cellulose supporting structure, and 5 to 30 parts by weight of at least one polyamide staple fiber;
                    with the proviso that not more than 40 percent by weight of the intimate blend contains silicon dioxide, if present.

2.   (Original) The intimate blend of claim 1, wherein there are 20 to 40 parts by weight of the at least one aramid staple fiber, 50 to 80 parts by weight of the at least one flame retardant cellulosic staple fiber, and 15 to 20 parts by weight of the at least one polyamide staple fiber.

3.   (Original) The intimate blend of claim 1, wherein the at least one aramid staple fiber is selected from the group consisting of para-aramid fibers, meta-aramid fibers, and mixtures thereof.

4.   (Original) The intimate blend of claim 2, wherein the at least one aramid staple fiber is selected from the group consisting of para-aramid fibers, meta-aramid fibers, and mixtures thereof.

5.   (Original) The intimate blend of claim 1, wherein the at least one aramid staple fiber is poly(metaphenylene isophthalamide) and the at least one flame retardant cellulosic staple fiber is flame retardant rayon.

6.   (Original) The intimate blend of claim 2, wherein the at least one aramid staple fiber is poly(metaphenylene isophthalamide) and the at least one flame retardant cellulosic staple fiber is flame retardant rayon.

7.   (Currently Amended) The intimate blend of claim 1, wherein the at least one aramid staple fiber is poly(metaphenylene isophthalamide) and the at least one flame retardant cellulosic staple fiber comprises silicon dioxide in the form of polysilicic acid in a cellulose supporting structure. and the silicon dioxide in the form of polysilicic acid in a cellulose supporting structure is present in an amount of no more than 40 percent by weight of the intimate blend.

8.   (Currently Amended) The intimate blend of claim 2, wherein the at least one aramid staple fiber is poly(metaphenylene isophthalamide) and the at least one flame retardant cellulosic staple fiber comprises silicon dioxide in the form of polysilicic acid in a cellulose supporting structure ~~and the silicon dioxide in the form of polysilicic acid in a cellulose supporting structure is present in an amount of no more than 40 percent by weight of the intimate blend~~.

9.   (Original) A yarn comprising the intimate blend of claim 1.

10.   (Original) A flame retardant fabric comprising the yarn of claim 9.

11.   (Original) The flame retardant fabric of claim 10, wherein the flame retardant fabric has a basis weight of from 4 to 15 ounces per square yard.

12.   (Original) A flame retardant article of clothing comprising the flame retardant fabric of claim 11.

13.   (Original) The flame retardant fabric of claim 10, wherein the flame retardant fabric has a basis weight of from 5.5 to 11 ounces per square yard.

14.   (Original) A flame retardant article of clothing comprising the flame retardant fabric of claim 13.

15.   (Original) A yarn comprising the intimate blend of claim 5.

16.   (Original) A flame retardant fabric comprising the yarn of claim 15.

17.   (Original) The flame retardant fabric of claim 16, wherein the flame retardant fabric has a basis weight of from 4 to 15 ounces per square yard.

18.   (Original) A flame retardant article of clothing comprising the flame retardant fabric of claim 17.

19.   (Original) The flame retardant fabric of claim 16, wherein the flame retardant fabric has a basis weight of from 5.5 to 11 ounces per square yard.

20.   (Original) A flame retardant article of clothing comprising the flame retardant fabric of claim 19.